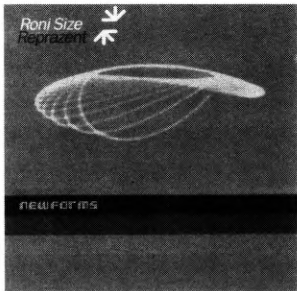


Music Reviews

Slick, chic, rockin' and clockin'

Simon McGregor

Ronnie Size "New Forms" (Talkin' Loud)



Drum and bass has been one of the main driving forces in the UK dance scene for some years, but with its radically different musical ascent of drums playing melody lines and ultra repetitive bass, it has been slow to break out of its niche and reach any

sizable market. Enter Ronnie Size, and this ground breaking album which has beaten Radiohead's "OK Computer" as the most acclaimed release of 1997. If you've walked into Chapel Street shops in the last six months, you'll know a few of the tracks, with 'brown paper bag' and 'heroes' becoming chill out hits around the world. He has made the breakthrough by using prominent jazz sounds in most of the tracks, and with excellent female vocal/raps from Onaltee. The tempo is slower than a lot of earlier drum & bass releases, and the cool groove inexorably grows on you. Music of the future, dance in new forms. **Rating: ##**

PropellorHeads "Decksanddrumsandrockandroll" (Wall of Sound)

This album is the big news in the big beat. The Props had so many singles released before the album that many wondered whether there would be any reason to buy this. Hell, 'Dive' was even snapped up for an Adidas advert. But there's plenty of reason: it's the best chemical-funk around. Slick, chic, rockin' and clockin'. No track sums up their zeitgeist better than 'History Repeating', where they display the taste to integrate a Shirley Bassey lead vocal into a fired-up dance track, while making comment on the sampler driven recontextualisation of post-modern music. Having provided someone with a PhD topic, they also have a good laugh with the absurd yet catchy "Echo and Bounce". Bang on! **Rating: ##**

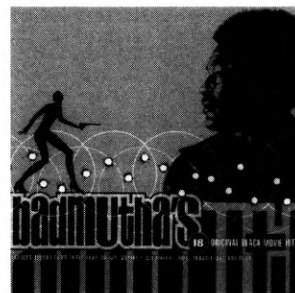
Air "Moon Safari" (Source)



This album is superb. It is make-out low tempo house music with the slinkiest keyboard licks you will have heard since Russ Meyers ruled Hollywood. You will be amazed at how these French boys have managed to take the kitsch

easy listening world of Burt Kampfert and his Good Time Orchestra, technofy the martini vibe, and make the sounds the post rave generation are hungry to hear. The songs are quite beautiful, with lyrics that really touch you. Many of the vocals are given a haunting melancholic feel via the trusty vocoder, which the band has described as 'the third sex'. High class sleepy elegance, but with the old synths being tweaked just enough for you to understand this goes way beyond any retro piss take. **Rating: ###**

Retro Review: Various "Badmutha's" (MCI)



Finally. Every cool pseudo-pornographic soundtrack song you've ever heard has been put together on this great compilation. The songs are taken from the Blaxploitation era of cinema, where funky afroed black studs chased foxy

ladies around some pretty mean streets. If you can overlook the appalling racial message these films have, the music is 'outasight'. James Brown, Isaac Hayes, Marvin Gaye, Booker T & the MG's, Curtis Mayfield and plenty of others you might not have heard of. Plus once you buy this CD, you'll have eighteen great suggestions for what to rent from the video store. **Rating: ##**

Young Lawyers' Quality Scale

- # Struck out
- ## Part/Party Costs
- ### Wrote the judgment myself